



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 25, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 24, 2003
CWP WA-CW3403

Winter Wheat Seeding Begins On Heels of Palouse Harvest More Bartlett Pears to Fresh Market

Field Crops

Warm, dry weather helped to finalize harvest activity around the Palouse. Some operators focused on preparing to wrap up harvest while others were seeding winter wheat, harrowing stubble, and fertilizing pea ground. Garbanzo beans in Walla Walla County remained mostly unharvested. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was being harvested while the second cutting of timothy hay began. Potato harvest continued. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir.

Livestock

Livestock producers continued to feed hay as pastures remained dry. Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 25% poor, 58% fair, and 14% good. Oyster processing in Pacific County continued with good yields.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cranberry growers expressed concern over recent EPA rulings and implications for their ability to use pesticides in bogs. Tomatoes matured well due to the warm weather. Blueberry harvest was winding down. Carrot, sweet corn, pear, and mint harvest continued. Apple harvest picked up in the Yakima Valley with good quality being reported on Gala apples. Bartlett pears were noted as having a greater amount going to the fresh market rather than to the cannery.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	38	37	25	0
Subsoil	18	34	48	0
Irrigation Water	5	9	86	0
Hay & Roughage	2	3	87	8

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	90	73	72	68
Winter Wheat Planted	3	0	NA	NA
Winter Wheat Harvested	94	84	90	88
Barley Harvested	90	69	60	63
Potatoes Harvested	31	28	31	24
Corn Silage Harvested	7	6	5	7
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	22	11	9	6
Dry Peas Harvested	92	81	64	67
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	90	72	74	75

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	22	71	7
Corn	0	1	8	91	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	8	67	24

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Some ag producers are saying that the current extended dry period is similar to that experienced in 1938. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Soils remained very dry. On a positive note, the dry weather was nearly ideal for commercial dahlia growers who had a profusion of blooms on display in their fields. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent sales and yields. Sweet corn growers continued to irrigate fields.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The drought continued as signs of fall began to appear. Farmers were feeding hay as most upland pastures have dried up. Fall wheat was harvested. Harvest of spring grains will start soon.

Kitsap: Near perfect weather continued to provide ideal growing conditions. Many farmers used irrigation as necessary to maintain the health and vigor of pastures.

Pacific: Dry soil conditions continued to challenge producers. Cranberry growers showed concern for the recent EPA lawsuit on the use of pesticides and implications of this case for their future ability to use fungicides and insecticides on bogs. Oyster processing operations continued with good yields. Growers prepared for the fall season with major harvests. Tomatoes and other late season crops matured well with the warm weather.

Snohomish/North King: Very dry conditions continued to stress crops. Blueberry and corn harvest continued. Dry fields,

roadsides, and forest land continued to be an extreme fire danger. No reports of crop loss were received.

Snohomish/North King (2nd report): Drought conditions continued. Non-irrigated crops and pastures were doing poorly. Some corn looked good, however if it was not in the flood plains or being irrigated, the corn crop was in sad shape. There may only be stalks and leaves with empty ears left to harvest. Blueberry harvest was winding down, and the apple crop was coloring up nicely.

Thurston: The extended dry period has resulted in a tapestry of fall colors across the rural landscape. Evening temperatures dipped into the mid 30's having some ag producers predicting an early fall frost. Christmas tree growers reported wholesale buyers were placing orders with Noble Fir once again in short supply. Livestock producers continued feeding hay due to the lack of forage on drought stricken pastures. The commercial blueberry harvest was nearly complete with harvest finishing almost a month earlier than normal due to reduced yields and the dry weather.

Whatcom: Blueberry harvest continued. Bush beans were being harvested. Potato vines continued to wilt in preparation for harvest. It was cooler last week with no rain.

Central

Benton: Some showers were received last Thursday night with about ½ inch in Prosser and about 1 inch in Kennewick. The third cutting of alfalfa was being harvested. Potato harvest continued.

Franklin: Weather was warm and dry. Potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvest continued. Third cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete and fourth cutting began.

Kittitas: Sweet corn harvest was underway, and some second cutting of timothy hay was being harvested. Cooler temperatures helped pasture conditions.

Kittitas (2nd report): Second cutting of timothy hay began.

Third cutting of alfalfa is mostly complete. Pear harvest will begin soon. Sweet corn harvest continued. Range and pasture conditions remained stressed. Kittitas Reclamation District to shut off irrigation water a month early, approximately September 15.

Yakima: Apple harvest picked up with good quality noted for Gala apples. Pear harvest continued. Greater amounts of Bartlett pears were going to the fresh market than to the cannery.

Yakima (2nd report): Average temperatures varied from 2 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with .01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Most of harvest was completed.

Adams (2nd report): With grain harvest complete, producers turned their attention to seeding activities, hoping that the long, dry summer had left adequate seedzone moisture to bring the next year's crops. Dry beans and mint were being harvested in the panhandle.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest continued without interruption. Many producers completed harvest with only the upper elevations remaining to be completed. Winter wheat harvest was average to above average. Spring crop harvest was well below normal in most areas.

Lincoln: Most harvest of spring seed small grains began on Monday, August 18th, but was shut down on Friday, August 22nd, because of showers. Some growers returned to the fields on Saturday afternoon.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Warm weather continued with a little rain over the weekend. The area that received rain varied considerably and the amount received varied from 0 to .2 inches. Winter wheat harvest wrapped up as spring wheat and barley harvest progressed. Some producers waited for areas to

ripen prior to harvest.

Stevens: A few showers moved through the area. Grain harvest was nearly complete. Most of the alfalfa's second cutting was baled.

Walla Walla: Temperatures were cooler but conditions were still extremely dry with a high risk for fire. There was no measurable rainfall for any extended period of time. Harvest wrapped up in most areas. Garbanzo beans remained mostly unharvested. Harvest progressed in the mountain areas. Yields were low overall.

Whitman: Harvest was complete in the western half of the county and neared completion in the eastern half, with perhaps a week of work remaining.

Whitman (2nd report): A week of warm, dry weather helped finalize harvest activity. Many operations completed cutting and others will be able to finish in the upcoming week. Some producers turned their attention to harrowing stubble and fertilizing pea ground. A small front brought light showers to the area last Friday.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

August 25, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	41	77	62	0	86	-1	19	-3	0.00	-0.35	0	26.25	-9.57	73	147
Everett	50	78	63	0	91	0	22	-6	0.00	-0.35	0	24.74	-11.38	68	146
Hoquiam	45	73	60	-2	73	-11	9	-12	0.00	-0.37	0	60.56	-6.89	90	163
Kelso	45	84	65	1	103	5	33	-2	0.00	-0.36	0	23.70	-22.42	51	105
Olympia	38	87	63	0	93	2	27	-1	0.00	-0.33	0	37.19	-13.03	74	152
Sea-Tac	50	84	66	1	112	6	42	0	0.00	-0.28	0	31.56	-5.30	86	143
Shelton	39	88	64	-2	101	-4	35	-7	0.00	-0.30	0	54.54	-9.95	85	149
Tacoma	39	86	64	-2	97	-4	31	-4	0.00	-0.34	0	26.82	-13.09	67	132
Vancouver	49	88	68	5	130	27	60	25	0.00	-0.30	0	34.26	-6.69	84	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	46	93	69	2	132	13	62	8	0.00	-0.09	0	7.90	-0.90	90	80
Omak	50	97	72	7	157	42	87	37	0.00	-0.28	0	11.82	-3.00	80	61
Stampede Pass	39	78	59	4	65	17	14	6	0.00	-0.50	0	58.86	-21.58	73	149
Wenatchee	56	94	74	2	167	12	97	11	0.00	-0.12	0	8.90	0.73	109	75
Yakima AP	48	95	70	2	141	12	71	9	0.01	-0.08	1	8.29	0.46	106	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	48	100	71	6	149	40	79	33	0.03	-0.25	2	17.75	-3.19	85	79
Deer Park	42	93	66	-2	114	-9	44	-14	0.05	-0.16	2	20.47	2.15	112	102
Spokane AP	51	92	70	3	139	15	69	10	0.05	-0.12	2	15.34	-0.94	94	106
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	94	72	-2	155	-9	85	-9	0.06	-0.01	1	7.88	0.72	110	59
Moses Lake	48	94	71	-4	147	-17	77	-17	0.08	0.01	1	8.27	1.11	116	75
Quincy	51	95	72	3	155	17	85	15	0.02	-0.05	1	6.31	-1.38	82	56
Ritzville	50	92	69	2	136	9	66	6	0.03	-0.10	1	11.29	0.11	101	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	95	73	-5	160	-26	90	-26	0.13	0.06	2	8.53	2.13	133	71
Pasco	49	98	73	-1	161	-1	91	-1	0.01	-0.10	1	7.13	-0.26	96	74
Pullman	46	90	67	2	122	13	52	4	0.00	-0.21	0	10.32	-10.56	49	89
Whitman Miss.	50	94	71	2	148	12	78	10	0.06	-0.08	1	14.46	0.87	106	118
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	93	68	-2	128	-5	58	-8	0.00	-0.34	0	18.33	-7.30	72	102
Lewiston ID	59	97	76	4	186	24	116	24	0.16	-0.05	2	13.06	0.84	107	115

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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